Swaranjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana

*435. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry has stressed the need for making the self-help groups a national movement through the medium of Swaranjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana to help in the development of social sector;

(b) if so, whether Government have decided to carry out necessary modifications in the guidelines for the SGSY; and

(c) if so, to what extent these measures have improved the development of the social sector in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: (a to c) The Self-Help Group (SHG) approach being followed under the Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) envisages organisation of the rural poor and their training and capacity building through a process of social mobilisation. The group approach provides an opportunity to the rural poor to come together on a common platform, discuss social and economic issues relevant to them and arrive at collective decisions aimed at their overall betterment.

At the National Conference on the 'SHG Movement in the country and the SGSY' held recently at the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad, it was, in pursuance of the empowering effect of the Group approach on members of SHGs, unanimously resolved to develop the Self Help Groups as a National Movement and to form at least one such Group in all habitations of the country by the year 2004.

In the context of the issues raised at the National Conference, appropriate modifications in the SGSY Guidelines are presently being processed for early implementation.

Progress of the rural electrification

*436. SHRI ABANI ROY:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have asked State Governments